

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Preparation of Legislation on Administrative Reorganization and on Government Claims

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1. A reorganization of State administrative areas is in preparation, mostly according to the Russian model. The number of regions (kraje) is to be radically reduced from the present 19, plus the City of Prague, and they are to be renamed "obvody" (areas, circuits). Some districts (okresy) within these are to be enlarged. There would be three such areas (obvody) in Bohemia, two in Moravia, and three in Slovakia. This too is to be a temporary arrangement only, the first step towards a return to "Provincial" administration.
2. A draft decree for the extension of the statute of limitations for private debts is ready to be passed. The present term is at least (sic) three years. The extension would be to about the end of 1954. This measure will affect people to whom the State has allocated small trades, small holdings, etc., and whose debts, without the new measure, would have expired. Government departments will be embarrassed when this decree comes into force. The value of this kind of claims is about 3 1/2 billion Kcs, against some 8,000 debtors. For about a half of these the statute of limitations had run, and the records of their debts to the State have therefore been destroyed.

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